

branches of *Salicornia herbacea*, a halophilous plant which is common at Melleha locality known as Ghadira and which is near the sea.

Paratinea merdella Zeller (Tineidae). One specimen at Gharghur on June 20, 1957.

Besides the above species, which as far as I can ascertain are new to the Maltese Islands, the following species which are considered rare at present have also been captured over the same period of years: *Agrotis spinifera*, *A. leucogaster*, *Mythimna unipuncta*, *Mythimna bicolorata*, *Mythimna L-album*, *Epia silenes*, *Earias insulana*, *Aegle vespertalis*, *Thalerastria bipartita*, *Autophila dilucida*, *Scopula marginepunctata*, *Eupithecia breviculata*, *Eupithecia phoeniciata*, *Pyrausta nubialalis*, *Actenia brunnealis*. The remarkable species *Homoeosoma saxicola* has also been met with several times.

10 Church Square, Gharghur, Malta, G.C.

Insects collected under a Swallow's Nest in Lincolnshire

By O. M. WHITE

During July 1953 a pair of swallows (*Hirundo rustica*) nested in an outbuilding at the Gibraltar Point (Lincolnshire) Nature Reserve, and after each visit of a parent to the three young some insects would drift down from the nest, still alive but unable to fly, and drop on a concrete slab underneath, from which I collected 86 such specimens between July 22 and 25. Damage to the insects varied from slight (*Haematopota*) to extensive (*Chironomus*—antennae and some legs missing). All except one were adults.

At about 0845 GMT on July 25 the last of the young birds flew and no more insects could be found under the nest. At 0945 a thermometer was placed by the nest and registered 69°F, 5° warmer than outdoors. The basic nest material then seemed hard and dry, and there was no visible sign of any puparia, which, I thought, might have been included among the mud used in building, and I concluded that the insects concerned must have been among the airborne prey brought to the nest by one or both parents and intended as food for the young, but for some reason were dropped, perhaps carelessness, or the young may have been fully fed.

The area in the swallows' foraging range included habitats from coastal to agricultural land. The weather during these four days was fair to fine in daylight, excepting slight rain on July 22.

The insects are listed at the foot of the note, and they include several species additional to the preliminary county list (1). The nomenclature follows the available *Handbooks* and Kloet and Hincks' *Check List*, excepting *Pammene aurantiana* Staud., an account of which appeared in *Ent. Rec.*, 69: 205.

Having obtained permission from the Trust, I collected diptera in the Reserve also by searching and selective sweeping during the rest of this week, obtaining there nine of the same species as were taken by the swallows.

The following very kindly determined these subjects:

Mr. E. A. Fonseca, Anthomyiidae and certain of the Muscidae.

Mr. H. Oldroyd, of the British Museum (Natural History), Tabanidae.

Mr. S. Wakely, Eucosmidae.

INVERTEBRATES RECOVERED UNDER THE SWALLOWS' NEST

	Qty.		Qty.
INSECTA: HEMIPTERA		PALLOPTERIDAE	
APHIDIDAE Unidentified	3	<i>Palloptera umbellatarum</i> F.	1
LEPIDOPTERA		CHAMAEMYIIDAE	
CARADRINIDAE		(R)* <i>Chamaemyia juncorum</i>	
<i>Procus furunculus</i> Schiff.	1	Fln.	1
<i>Charaeas graminis</i> L.	1	HELOMYZIDAE	
EUCOSMIDAE		* <i>Trixoscelis obscurella</i> Fln.	1
* <i>Pammene aurantiana</i> Staud.	2	TACHINIDAE	
? <i>P. aurantiana</i>	7	* <i>Lydina aenea</i> Mg.	1
HYMENOPTERA		CALLIPHORIDAE	
CHALCIDOIDEA		(R) <i>Calliphora erythrocephala</i>	
Unidentified	1	Mg.	1
DIPTERA		MUSCIDAE	
CHIRONOMIDAE		* <i>Azelia zetterstedti</i> Rond.	1
* <i>Chironomus annularius</i> Deg.	27	(R) <i>Helina duplicata</i> Mg.	1
Unidentified	1	* <i>Spilogona aestum</i> Villen.	1
STRATIOMYIDAE		(R) * <i>Dexiopsis lacteipennis</i>	
<i>Microchrysa polita</i> L.	1	Ztt.	2
(R) <i>Nemotelus uliginosus</i> L.	6	(R) <i>Fannia canicularis</i> L.	1
(R)* <i>N. notatus</i> Ztt.	8	* <i>F. serena</i> Fln.	1
<i>Nemotelus</i> sp. lost	1	ANTHOMYIIDAE	
<i>Oxycera trilineata</i> F.	2	<i>Hylemyia coarctata</i> Fln.	2
TABANIDAE		* <i>Delia trichodactyla</i> Rond.	1
* <i>Haematopota bigoti</i> Gob.	2	* <i>Egle aestiva</i> Mg.	1
THEREVIDAE		ARACHNIDA: ACARINA	
(R) <i>Thereva nobilitata</i> F.	1	Unidentified larva	1
EMPIDIDAE unidentified	1		
DOLICHOPODIDAE			
<i>Dolichopus griseipennis</i> Stan.	2		
(R)* <i>Poecilobothrus fumipennis</i> Stan. (<i>principalis</i> Lw.)	1	DAILY NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS	
Unidentified	1	Date: July 22 23 24 25	
		No.: 38 9 32 7	

NOTATION:

(R) Species also found in the Reserve during the same week.

*Addition to preliminary county list (1).

REFERENCE

White, J. H. 1947. A Preliminary List of the Lincolnshire Diptera. *Transactions of the Lincolnshire Naturalists' Union.*

78 Eastdale Road Nottingham. 24.i.69.